

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application:

GERALD R. MORROW

**Examiner: Kurt C. Rowan
Group Art Unit: 3643**

Serial No. 10/804,948

Filed: 3/19/2004

For: Fishhook Line Connector and Method

**Portland, Oregon
5 May 2005**

**COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated 5 April 2005 and the restriction requirement between the fishhook claims 1-6 and the method claims 7-9, the applicant herein provisionally elects the fishhook claims 1-6.

With regard to the requirement to elect a single species among the species identified by the Examiner as Figs. 1-4; Figs. 5-8; Figs. 9-10; and Fig. 11, applicant provisionally elects the species of Figs. 1-4 and recited in claims 1, 2, 3 and 6. The Examiner has indicated that claim 1 is generic, and in the event a generic claim is found allowable, the claims to the remaining species also will be allowed.

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Applicant respectfully traverses the requirement of division between the claims to the fishhook and the method. The method set forth in claims 7 and 8 requires the structural features recited in claim 1 in order to perform the method steps recited in claims 7 and 8 and illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. The method of claim 9 requires the structural features of Figs. 5-8 in order to perform the method steps recited in claim 9.

The Examiner states that the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. However, since it is the specific structural features recited in the fishhook claims that allow the method steps to be performed, it is submitted that the process steps recited in the claims require the structural configurations recited in the fishhook claims.

To illustrate, note that the process steps recited in claim 7a; b and c require the structural features recited in claims 1, 2, 3 and 6. Correspondingly, the structural features recited in claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 are required in order to enable the performance of process steps recited in claim 7a, b and c and claim 8a, b, c and d.

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For the foregoing reasons it is submitted that the requirement for restriction and the election of a single species, are not well founded. Accordingly, it is requested that all of the claims presented herein receive action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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